



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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*** Third Sunday of Advent | 17th December 2023 ***

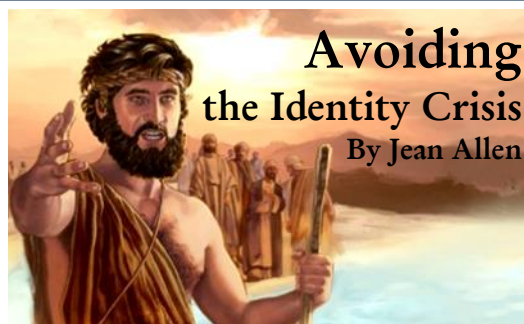
Lighting the Advent Candles The Third Sunday of Advent: Joy (Rose)

The Third Sunday of Advent is the Sunday of Joy. Our joy is in God and in His Son Jesus Christ. Like peace, joy is a gift from God. It overtakes us and fills us when we remember what God has done and what He has promised to do.

We light a candle on this day to remind us that Christ came, and is coming, so that all people might have a rich and abundant life. We thank God for the hope He gives us and for the peace He bestows, and for joy He pours into our hearts.



For the Christmas Season,
the Parish Office will be closed
Sat, 23 Dec. 2023 to Mon, 8 Jan. 2024.



Avoiding the Identity Crisis

By Jean Allen

"Who are you?" the priests and Levites asked John. "Who are you and what is your reason for being? Are you this, are you that? How can we trip you up and get you to claim something preposterous? How can we diminish your importance to the people and let them see what a fraud you are?"

But, you know what? John gave them nothing to grab onto because he desired no claim to fame. He didn't have grandiose ideas about who he was or who he wanted to be. He was just a voice in the wilderness, no one terribly important; the important one was coming soon but he was not the one. However, this didn't mean that John had no sense of himself; he was in no way needy of approval from anyone because he knew exactly who he was. He didn't need to prove himself to anybody or make himself seem important because he had already found his identity in God.

Who are you? What is your reason for being? Do you need approval or admiration? If you don't get approval and admiration, does it make you resentful or make you feel diminished somehow? Are you content to play second fiddle because what you do is not what creates your whole identity? If you suddenly found yourself incapacitated and unable to do what you have always done, would that completely erode your sense of worth and value? How much do you do simply in order to justify your existence?

The need to find our worth reflected in the eyes of those around us is deeply human but that's not where we will find it. That need puts limitations on who we are and who we can be. Thanks be to God that John and Jesus had discovered where their value and worth resided. It was not in the eyes of people but in the eyes of God. They did not find their identities in how much they were loved by people.

It was in how much they were loved by God.

LITURGICAL YEAR B

Saturday:

English Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday:

English Mass **(streamed)** 9:00 am

Polish 1:00 pm

Korean 3:00 pm

Vietnamese **(Dec. 17)** 5:30 pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00 pm

Weekday Masses

English

Confessions before Mass

(During Advent) 11:30 am

Mass: Tuesdays to Thursdays 12:05 pm

Mass: Fridays 12:05 pm

Adoration until 3 pm

(Sign-up sheet, in the foyer)

Korean

Mass: Wednesdays 7:00 pm

Mass: Thursdays 10:30 am

Sacred Heart YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzXJfSxennwmYIT4kPyUh6w>



Advent Reconciliation Service

6 pm

Thursday,
21st December



Confessions during Advent



11:30 am, Tuesdays to Fridays, before the 12:05 pm weekday Mass.

3:00 pm, Saturdays, before the 4:00 pm anticipated Sunday Mass.



Please pray for:

Those who have died

Joe Carvalho, Herculano & Joao Pimental,
Manuel Pimentel & Marie de Melo,
Souls in Purgatory

Those who are ill

Thérèse A, Jon A, S. F. Chaves, Patricia C, Darrell C, Cora C,
Ludwik D, Lesley D, Kathleen G, Richard G, Pedrito K,
M Lopez, Derek L, Lisa L, Mike Reason and Maria T.

Thank you

for your generous donation of \$140 this
past week. Flower Donation envelopes are
available at the entrance of the church.



2024 Parish Donation Envelopes

Dear Parishioners,

**Donation Envelopes are ready for pick up in the church foyer.
Please do not use them until January 1st, 2024.**

Please inform the Parish Office if you have moved and have a new
postal address, or a new email address or phone numbers.

If you do not have Donation Envelopes and would like a box, or if
you wish to discontinue using the Donation Envelopes, please
inform the Parish Office. Thank you.

Donation Envelopes are beneficial if you make weekly contributions
to the parish. The Donation Envelopes are necessary if you wish to
receive an income tax receipt.

**PLEASE DO NOT USE ANY ENVELOPES FROM
THE PREVIOUS YEAR.**

The number may have been re-assigned and you
will not get credit for your donation.



Contributions

Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD)

If you are PAD user, please remember to complete your
name and address on the Special Collection envelopes, if
you would like to receive a tax receipt. Information & links
are also available on our website.

Options To Donate

E-Transfer: The email to use is:
sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org

**Pre-Authorized Debit:
Automatic Debit**

(click here for the PAD form)

The PAD form is also available from the Parish Office.

Canada Helps: Online through Canada Helps

If you have any questions on the available options,
or would like to make a change in how you donate,
please contact the parish office. Thank you.

Thank you for your contributions!

Dec 9 & Dec 10, 2023

Envelopes \$ 2,329.00

Cash \$ 401.30

Total \$ 2,730.30

Donations through PAD, Canada Helps, & e-Transfer
will be reported after the end of the month.

Join us for an Evening of Carols

Wednesday, 27 December at 5 p.m.

**Come and sing Christmas carols as a parish community in church,
and celebrate Christmas with the ethnic communities
of Sacred Heart Parish,
as they sing in their own languages!**



SEE YOU THERE!



African Aids Angels

will be on sale in the church
foyer this weekend, before and after each Mass. These are hand-
crafted angels made by volunteers from donated materials. The
funds earned help to support children orphaned by the HIV virus.
We help support an orphanage in South Africa and one in Zambia.



Small angels: \$10, Large: \$25.

We accept cash or cheques made
out to "African Aids Angels".

**Thank you, in advance,
for your support.**

Marcia Thompson



Society of St. Vincent de Paul Third Sunday of Advent:

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the
voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the
way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help
others to know the love of the Lord.

Christmas is a time of love and giving. Please give to the Society of
St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food
can share in the blessings of Christmas.

For monetary donations, please specify that it is for the
"SCO Food Pantry". Cheques: "Society of St. Vincent de Paul".

Donate online and specify Sacred Heart Parish at:
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/society-of-st-vincent-de-paul-of-vancouver-island/>.

Christmas Charity Concert with the Greater Victoria Concert Band Jr. 1 pm, Saturday, December 16 Sacred Heart Parish Hall

Come and enjoy the spirit of the season at The Christmas Charity
Concert with the Greater Victoria Concert Band Jr.

Entrance is by donation. All proceeds of this concert will go to the
Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Contributions to the food-bank will also be welcome.

Anawim is asking for assistance.

A collection box is now in the church
foyer **THIS WEEKEND** to accept
donations of **NEW CLOTHING**: items
such as jeans, jackets, socks, under-
wear, shirts, raingear and any new
items of clothes that may be used as
gifts to the residents of the two houses,
and guests from the drop-in program.



Anawim House

Anawim's Annual Christmas Tree Sale is now ON!

At 973 Caledonia Avenue.

**Thank you for your long-term support
of Anawim.**



Mass Schedule: Christmas Season 2023

Sunday, December 24

4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 am – English
1:00 pm – Polish

Christmas Eve Masses

4:30 pm – English (Children's Carolling and Pageant)
5:00 pm – English (Children's Mass)
7:00 pm – English (Carolling)
7:30 pm – English
9:30 pm – Korean
Midnight – Polish

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

8:30 am – English (Carolling)
9:00 am – English (Nativity of our Lord)
5:30 pm – Vietnamese (Nativity of our Lord)

Tuesday, December 26

12:05 pm – English (St. Stephen)
1:00 pm – Polish (St. Stephen)

Wednesday, December 27

12:05 pm – English (St. John)

Thursday, December 28

12:05 pm – English (Holy Innocents)

Friday, December 29

12:05 pm – English with Adoration
3:00 pm – Chaplet of Divine Mercy & Benediction

Saturday, December 30

4:00 pm – English (Holy Family - Anticipated Sunday Mass)

Sunday, December 31

Feast of the Holy Family

9:00 am – English
1:00 pm – Polish



Moms & Tots

Come for the company and faith-sharing between mothers. Parents and caregivers are welcome as well. The Parish Hall, Mondays, 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Please contact: Chantal: momstots.shvic@gmail.com

Celebrating the Feast of St. Nicholas December 6, with Fr. Jan!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

In 2009, the International Order of the Knights of Columbus launched 'Coats for Kids' to give children in need the gift of warmth in the coldest months.

This winter marks the one millionth coat to be given. The 6 Councils in Greater Victoria have donated over 260 of these winter coats to First Nations, St. Vincent de Paul, schools and other agencies, and the Ukrainian refugee families in greater Vancouver.

Next time you purchase a Knights' lottery ticket, pancake breakfast, have your Christmas tree chipped, or donate your empties, know that you are helping to fund this program. Your help is appreciated. "Thank you" from the Knights and the Kids.



The Bishop's Appeal, Tapestry of Faith, is accepting 2023 donations until the end of the year. Please consider making a financial commitment to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Not only are you helping our parish, but you are making a real difference to our greater Diocesan faith community, our religious leaders, and Local Mission Parishes.

Reaching our parish goal also means that the parish will retain \$8,800.00 for our own project.

Please give prayerful consideration towards our Appeal and know that you are making a difference

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/bishops-appeal>

Parish Project: *New benches and more lighting in darker areas.* Parish Goal: \$44,000.00 Actual: \$31,004.32 Pledges: 129



From the Diocese

Simbang Gabi Sa Victoria St. Andrew's Cathedral

Celebrate the Filipino tradition of devotional Mass in preparation for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

December 15, 7:30 pm
December 16 and 17, 5:00 pm
December 18 to 22, 7:30 pm
December 23, 5:00 pm



The Epiphany of the Liturgy: Welcoming the Closeness of God

St. Joseph the Worker Church | January 5 & 6, 2024

This conference is for all who serve in liturgical ministries. The presenters are Dr. Glenn Byer and Dr. David Pitt, liturgical and musical educators at US Catholic colleges. The workshops are on: Fri, Jan 5, 7 pm to 9:30 pm, & Sat, Jan 6 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

For more information and to register please visit:

<https://EpiphanyLiturgyConference.eventbrite.com>

For assistance in registering, please mail

mgwyn@rcdvictoria.org or call 250-479-1331 ext 227.



We welcome to the Diocese, Fr. Shijo Ottaplackal George, VC

from the Syro-Malabar, Catholic Eparchy of Mississauga.

Fr Shijo is a religious priest in the Vincentian Order from Kerala, India. Fr Shijo will serve as Pastor to provide Sacramental and Pastoral Ministry to the Syro-Malabar Catholics living in the Diocese. He has been assigned to St. Joseph the Worker Church in Victoria as Associate Priest to work closely with Fr. Alfredo Monacelli. This appointment is effective Friday, December 15, 2023.

South Island Harmony A Cappella Chorus

Holy Cross Parish, Sun, Dec 17 at 2pm



Admission is by donation. Proceeds will go towards the financial support of a refugee family currently in Lebanon, sponsored by the parish.

For more information, please contact the parish at 250-477-5321 or office@holycrossvictoria.org

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL 2023 / 2024

Marilyn Bojko (Chair) Jim Haffey
Peter Martin Jeremy Côté
Rick Perez de Tagle Edgar Tan Jr.
Samantha Sherman Will Podmoroff

OUR MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, 9 December, 4 pm

Altar Servers : Daisy, Mariah, Elias, Mara
Lectors : Belle PdT, Sigrune F
EMCs : Marilyn T
Ushers : Marisa T
Music : Arlene S, Rafael O

Sunday, 10 December, 9 am

Altar Servers : Pio, Matthew, Michael
Lectors : Connie H, Gail-Golden F
EMCs : Steve K, Aubert G
Ushers : Lucia DD, Linh DD
Music : Sacred Heart Choir, Rafael O

Thank you to all our volunteers

TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE TO AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY

To report sexual abuse by a clergy member,
religious, employee, or volunteer, visit
RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry
or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up
by a Catholic Bishop,
visit BishopReportingSystem.ca or call
1-866-892-3737

Sacred Heart Contacts

Pastor: Fr. Jan Grotkowski, SDS
jgrotkowski@rcdvictoria.org

Korean: Fr. Robert Ryu
youngjinryu0758@gmail.com

Polish: Fr. Jan Grotkowski, SDS
jgrotkowski@rcdvictoria.org

Vietnamese: Fr. Michael Tran
michaeltran@rcdvictoria.org

Hospital Chaplain
Fr. Sean Flynn: 250-889-3761

Parish Administrative Assistant
Katherine Newton:
sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org

Children's Religious Ed.
Coordinator
Lidia Moodie:
sacredheartreled@rcdvictoria.org

Parish Liturgy Coordinator
Rafael Oei:
sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org

RMSE Coordinator
Sindhu Merwin:
sacredheartmse@gmail.com

PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS



Please contact the
Parish Office:
sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org

PARISH LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Parish Liturgy Coordinator
Altar Servers
Extraordinary Ministers

Floral Ministry
Lectors
Music Director
Pastoral Care Ministry
Ushers

Video Streamers

Rafael Oei
Karla Montano
Gilbert Santos
Chay Santos
Ruby Rivera
Stan Dzbik
Rafael Oei
Lynda Tan
Marisa Tinsay
Isme Liem
Peter Liem

PARISH GROUPS

Christian Meditation
C.W.L. / Prayer Line
Knights of Columbus
Led By The Spirit Group
Moms & Tots
Phone-tree
Funeral Receptions
Social Justice/D & P
St. Vincent de Paul

Margie Noonan
Margot McLaughlin
Rick Perez de Tagle
David MacIntyre
Chantal Côté
Elizabeth Olcen
Elizabeth Olcen
Stan Dzbik
Georgina Short

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CONSULTING MANAGER

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SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

Victoria BC, 2023